HF Happenings 538

January 2013

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

SARL to Focus on Disaster Communication Centenary

In his New Year message the SARL President, Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT said that for the next four months the SARL would focus on celebrating the theme "Amateur Radio - entering its second century of disaster communication."

He said, "In my Christmas message I focused on Ham spirit and the Amateur Code and likened it to the spirit of Ubuntu - that profound African sense that we are human only through the humanity of other human beings. Nelson Mandela once said that it is not a parochial phenomenon, but it has added globally to our common search for a better world.

As we are at the beginning on a brand new year I would like to single out the sixth and last item in the amateur code "The Radio Amateur is Patriotic..... Their knowledge and their station are always ready for the service of their country and their community."

As the SARL we have lived up to the amateur code as clearly demonstrated through the activity of our disaster communication division "HAMNET" and the many amateurs who freely give of their time and expertise to support it.

On 18 April this year, the world celebrates world amateur radio day with the theme "Amateur Radio - entering its second century of disaster communication." We believe it is fitting that we dedicate the next four months to support the theme and to celebrate a century of disaster communication support to South Africa and, indeed many times, to countries far beyond our borders.

ICASA has issued to call sign ZS9DCC "ZS9 Disaster Communication Centenary". I would like to invite clubs to take turns in setting up public event stations to demonstrate how amateur radio contributes to South Africa and South Africans though disaster communication support, search and rescue operations, communication support for sporting events and technological innovation.

Amateur Radio was the first to use Voice over IP. Echolink was established many years before commercial operators introduced voice over IP in their networks. Radio amateurs build and operate satellites, have developed sophisticated software to enable communication under weak signal conditions and share these experiences to develop a culture of technological advancement.

The SARL will soon have a brochure available that demonstrates our abilities in providing disaster communication and technological advancements in communication. We need you to show it to the world. "

Listen to the full message on Amateur Radio TODAY on Sunday 6 January or download it from the web at www.sarl.org.za.

Hunting Lions-in-the-Air

The event takes place on the weekend closest to 13 January, the birth date of Melvin

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Jones, the founder of the Lions organisation. In 2013, that will be the weekend of 12 and 13 January.

It will not be a contest but merely a means for Lions to exchange greetings with other Lions and Lions Clubs. Radio amateurs and members of the various Lions Clubs get together and the Lions are allowed to exchange greetings with other Lions under supervision of the radio amateur. Normally the name and number of the Lions Club is the exchange.

Contact Rad Handfield-Jones, ZS6RAD rad.handfield-jones@pixie.co.za and Willie Axford, ZS5WI zs5wi@telkomsa.net for more information.

Morse Code as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

On 12 December, the Cabinet of Germany ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which brings us one step closer to the goal of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) and IARU to have Morse Code added to the list of Intangible cultural heritage.

The national UNESCO offices are checking the applications of their respective countries, and upon success they will be sent to Paris, where in November 2014, Morse Code could finally be accepted to the list.

Radio Activity Award January 2013

This award is sponsored by 'Brave Radio Friends' and is given out to radio amateurs and SWLs, who need to work or hear as many DXCCs as possible in January 2013, with a minimum of 20 DXCCs.

Applications with log excerpt (PDF, DOC, XLS or JPG) can be sent to de3ear@darc.de until 28 February. The award which comes as a PDF document is free of charge.

January 2013
1 – New Year's Day
9 – Inland schools open
12 and 13 – Hunting Lions in the Air
16 – Coastal schools open
18 to 20 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest
19 – Wild Flower Day, Chrissiemeer
26 – Summer QRP Sprint
26 – Draf and Trap Night Race, Ottosdal
31 - Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2013 AGM

30 M Beacon

Andrea, IZ3NYT, has built a new beacon on 30 metres. He would like your participation and hopes you have fun. Receive the signal and send a QSL card report to Andrea. SWLs, please listen for the beacon also and send in a signal report. The frequency is 10 138,5 kHz CW, 8 WPM, power 100 mW. The layout and the pictures you can see on his website at iz3nyt.altervista.org/

Keeping New Radio Amateurs

Dom, M0BLF, of Camb-Hams and the Cambridge University Wireless Society (CUWS) suggests a few ways to keep new radio amateurs once they are licensed

After the candidate has got their licence, most of the CUWS 'responsibility' ends (except, of course, for students who get to use our shack). CUWS organises two or three lectures per year which are open to the public (recent topics have included APRS, GSM testing, and DXpedition talks) but we do not believe talks are that motivating.

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I wrote about the Camb-Hams in the April (or possibly May) RadCom. It is officially the 'social side' of Cambridgeshire Repeater Group, but operates fairly autonomously. The main Camb-Hams events are the monthly 'Pye and Pints' (CRG originated as Pye Radios' radio club) held in a local pub. This is a social event. There are no formal talks about radio, just a group of like-minded people chatting over pub food and a couple drinks. Pye and Pint meetings typically attract 30 - 40 people from an increasingly large area now that word is spreading out of the immediate area.

Crucially, the Camb-Hams have no committee, no finances (so no subscription), and any amateur who wants to call him/herself a 'Camb-Ham' is automatically a member. This means that the local politics, which blights so many radio clubs, cannot happen. If we could do one thing to keep more new licensees nationally, I think that having more local clubs adopt this model would be a great start.

The Camb-Hams also organise contest entries (with no committee, this means that people just get on and do the organisation themselves). We are very active in the UKAC contests, from a number of locations across the area. We have found these a particularly useful vehicle and the phrase 'activity breeds activity' has been very pertinent. Even the most die-hard anti-contest local operators have started to come on Tuesday evenings to help contribute to the Camb-Hams score. Similarly, we have found the AFS Super-League very useful for demonstrating different aspects of amateur radio with the fact that a range of skills (VHF Contesting, HF Contesting and CW) is required. With the scoring model only counting the scores of the 'top' stations for each club, new licensees do not feel they are harming the entry by just having a play and getting their feet wet.

Once we have whetted their appetite, the Camb-Hams entries in field days and the CUWS entries in CQ WW are open to anyone who wants to take their skills further. We had 14 operators in CQ WW this year, 9 of whom were under 30 and 3 of whom had M3/M6 calls. Personally, the range of activities available has been very instructive even for me - until this year I would never have taken 23 cm contesting seriously, but the UKACs have let me try it out.

There are also numerous opportunities each year for going on DXpeditions, whether with CUWS or the Camb-Hams. We tend to find that a number of younger operators often regard DXpeditions as an excuse to travel, rather than the radio being the primary interest. (I would probably include myself in this category, in fact.) That is fine - the radio can come later.

We also have a very active RAYNET group, with monthly training evenings, typically assisting at 12 - 15 public events per year. We do not tend to use these as a recruiting opportunity directly (we would normally be far too busy with the actual event to talk to the general public about the hobby) but it is another avenue that new licensees are encouraged to investigate, and of course we are exposing the hobby to the local user services (St John Ambulance, et al.), some of whom express more interest in how our skills can assist their role.

I hope that the picture I am painting is one where there are lots of opportunities for new amateurs, served by a number of complementary (but not competing) local groups. This is probably partly achieved by having a number of very (excessively!) enthusiastic people who are involved in all of the different clubs, but who strive to keep their roles distinct. It is time consuming but this model helps us not to cause confusion.

A new amateur might be attracted via Cambridge 105 or through direct contact with us, takes their license through CUWS, becomes involved in local activities through the Camb-Hams, is encouraged to become active weekly through the UKACs, with the promise of DXpeditions if they are keen, and/or Raynet operation if they are publicly-spirited. If someone interested in getting a licence approaches the Camb-Hams or Raynet or the RSGB DRM, they are immediately referred to CUWS. This ensures that groups concentrate on doing what they are best set-up to do.

Obviously we are lucky in having a number of very energetic amateurs (of whom I am but

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one) who are happy to devote almost every evening of the week to the hobby, wearing multiple hats, but I would hope that other parts of the country might be able to learn from our experiences... and we're still evolving the way we work too, of course!

Camb-Hams - http://www.camb-hams.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/CambHams Cambridge University Wireless Society (CUWS) - http://www.g6uw.org/ and https://www.facebook.com/groups/192212924146430/

Operating Tip

A reader asks, "I thought leaving duplicate QSOs ("dupes") in a log was a problem - no?"

In paper logs, dupes used to be a problem because they were hard for the log checkers to detect and remove. Thus, there was a penalty to the station submitting the log for leaving them in. (The station worked was not penalised...)

In electronic logs, it is easy for the log checking software to identify and discard dupes. Not only that, leaving the dupes in an electronic log makes it possible to insure everybody gets credit for a QSO since an initial contact may not have been completed or miss-logged in some way. The duplicate QSO may, in fact, be the valid QSO, especially if the duping station called you!

If you think about it the way Trey N5KO recommended in the latest *National Contest Journal*, it will make more sense. "In the days of paper logs there was a claimed score, and then there would be deductions made for miscopied call signs and so forth. With 100 percent log checking by machine, the old approach gave way to a new methodology, where your log starts at zero points, and your score builds with each contact and multiplier as your log is evaluated." So there is no reason to penalize dupes - the worst thing that can happen is that your score is not increased. So definitely leave the dupes in your *electronic* log - you will not be penalized.

While we are on the subject, send in your log - many a certificate is hanging on the wall of those who persevered all the way through log submission while their competition got lazy or just plain forgot!

Handy worldwide temperature conversion table

Martti, OH2BH, contributes this handy worldwide temperature conversion table:
+15 °C, Spanish wear caps, gloves and winter coats, Finns are sunbathing
+10 °C, French desperately try to get their central heating on. Finns plant flowers.
+5 °C, Italian cars will not start. Finns drive with convertibles.
0 °C, Pure water...freezes. Water in river Vantaa thickens a bit.
- 5 °C, First people are found frozen in California. Finnish midsummer festival ends.
-10 °C, Scottish turn the heat on in their houses. Finns start to use long-sleeve shirts.
-20 °C, Swedes stay indoors. Finns are having last barbeque before winter.
-30 °C, Half of the Greek people have frozen to death. Finns start to dry their laundry indoors.
-50 °C, Polar bears evacuate North Pole. Finnish army starts its winter training.
-70 °C, Siberian people are moving to Moscow. Finns are furious since the Koskenkorva liquor cannot be stored outdoors anymore.
-273 °C, Absolute zero. Finns admit that it is quite cold outside.
-300 °C, Hell freezes over. Finland wins the football World Cup.

DXCC News

Both 5T0SP - Mauritania 2012 and ZL9HR - Auckland & Campbell Islands 2012 have been approved for DXCC credit.

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African DX

Namibia, V5. Ewald, DJ2BQ is active as V5/DJ2BQ until 18 January. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using RTTY. QSL to home call.

Senegal, 6W. Francis, F6BLP is active as 6W7SK until January 18 from Saly Portudal. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using mostly CW. This may include some activity on 160 metres. QSL to home call.

Rwanda, 9X. Carl, SM6CPY will be active holiday style as 9X0PY from Rwanda on 15 to 31 January. He will operate mainly CW on various bands, depending on antenna possibilities. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Sudan, ST. Sam, K0YAK (ex 9N7AK) is now in Khartoum, Sudan, and will be active as ST2SF beginning in late January and continuing to at least mid-April. His licence includes full HF privileges, but is limited to 100 w. He plans to be active on 40 to 10 metres (perhaps also 80 and 6 m) SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via LoTW or K0YAK.

Burundi, 9U. A team of operators from Belgium and the Netherlands will be active as 9U4U from Bujumbura, Burundi from 14 to 23 February. They plan to run four stations with amplifiers on 160 - 10 metres SSB, CW and RTTY, with at least one station focusing on 160 and 180 metres every night. QSL via M0URX, direct or bureau (OQRS for both options at www.m0urx.com), and LoTW "at the earliest opportunity". The website for the expedition is at www.9u4u.be

African Islands

IOTA News. "Following receipt of new information the IOTA Manager has decided to put on hold acceptance of 7T50I/P cards for Agueli Island AF-097. None will be accepted during the January update period. A final decision will not be taken before February"

Madeira Island, CT9. Mathieu, MJ0ASP, will be active from Madeira Island (AF-014, DIP MA-001, PIP MD-001, WLOTA 0053), as CT9/MJ0ASP from 4 to 9 January 2013. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metre CW only. QSL via LotW and home call.

Special Event Stations

Germany. For the 50th anniversary of the French-German Treaty of Friendship (Elysee Treaty) there will be a special station DL50FRANCE on the air during the whole year of 2013, with special DOK 50FRA. This activity is an example for the international understanding, which is fostered by amateur radio activities. Horst, DF8VV came up with the idea for this activity, the QSL manager is DK8VR.

The Netherlands. On the 110th jubilee of the football club MVV Maastricht, the special event call sign PD110MVV will be on the air until 14 January. QSL via PD3R.

Other DX

Contest Calendar

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 to 31 December 2012.

QRP Fox Hunt:
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 2 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 3 January 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 4 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 5 January 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 6 January 2013

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E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

PODXS 070 Club PSKFest
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 5 January
Mode: PSK31
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: QRP Single Band; QRP Multiband; Low Power; Medium Power
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: Medium Power: 100 watts; Low Power: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point/QSO
Multipliers: States, provinces and countries, once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 January 2013
E-mail logs to: jbudzowski@verizon.net
Mail logs to: Jay Budzowski, 070 Club PSKFest, 109 S. Northview Ave., New Castle, PA 16102-1633, USA
Find rules at: http://www.podxs070.com/pskfest

QRP ARCI Pet Rock Celebration
15:00 - 18:00 UTC 5 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI number or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus points: 5 000 for battery power portable with temporary antenna; 2 000 per band for rockbound receiver; 3 000 per band for rockbound transmitter
Multipliers: Each state, province, country once per band
Power Mult: >5 W = x 1, 1 – 5 W = x 7, 500 mW – 1 W = x 10, 200 – 500 mW = x 15, 55 – 200 mW = x 20, <55 mW = x 25
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 20 January 2013
E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org
Mail logs to: ARCI Pet Rock Celebration, c/o Brian Campbell, VE3MGY, PO Box 135, 46485 Sparta Line, Sparta, Ontario N0L 2H0, Canada
Find rules at: http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/8390/118/

ARRL RTTY Roundup
18:00 UTC 5 January to 24:00 UTC 6 January

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Mode: RTTY, Digital
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op (Low/High); Multi-Single (Low/High)
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; non-W/VE: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each US state (except KH6/KL7) once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country (including KH6/KL7) once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 7 February 2013
E-mail logs to: RTTYRU@arrl.org
Mail logs to: RTTY Roundup, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

EUCW 160 m Contest
20:00 – 23:00 UTC 5 January and 04:00 – 07:00 UTC 6 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: A: 150 W or more, member of affiliated club; B: 5 – 150 W, member of affiliated club; C: 5 W or less, member of affiliated club; D: Other stations, no power limitations; E: SWL
Exchange: Affiliated Club Member: RST, name, club and membership no; Other: RST, name and "NM"
Work stations: Once per day
QSO Points: QSO with station in same DXCC country: 1 point; QSO with station in different DXCC country, but same continent: 2 points; QSO with station in different continent: 5 points; QSO with official EUCW club station: 10 points
Multipliers: EUCW clubs, once per day
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 5 February 2013
E-mail logs to: f6cel@wanadoo.fr
Mail logs to: Ghislain Barbason, 5 rue de l'Ecluse, F-02190 Pignicourt, France
Find rules at: http://www.agcw.de/eucw/eu160.html

Kid's Day Contest
18:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 January
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2 m repeaters
Classes: (none)
Exchange: name, age, QTH and favourite colour
Submit logs by: 5 February 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: (see rules)
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/kids-day

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Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 9 January
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 11 January
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 January
MI QRP January CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 12 January to 23:59 UTC 13 January
UK DX Contest, RTTY, 12:00 UTC 12 January to 11:59 UTC 13 January
WW PMC Contest, 12:00 UTC 12 January to 12:00 UTC 13 January
North American QSO Party, CW, 18:00 UTC 12 January to 06:00 UTC 13 January
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 January
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW, 06:30 - 08:30 UTC 13 January
DARC 10-Meter Contest, 09:00 - 10:59 UTC 13 January
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB, 09:00 - 11:00 UTC 13 January
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint, 18:00 - 20:00 UTC 14 January

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 31 December 2012.

1714 - The typewriter was patented by Englishman Henry Mill but not developed
1838 - Samuel Morse, and Alfred Vail, gave the first public demonstration of their electric telegraphic system at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, N.J
1863 - James Plimpton of New York patented four-wheeled roller skates
1871 - Henry Bradley of Binghamton, NY, patented Oleomargarine (Margarine)
1889 - A motor vehicle excise tax of 2 Guineas (about £1.05) took effect in Great Britain
1890 - The seals were broken on the standard kilogram and metre for the USA measurement units
1896 The discovery of X-rays by W Rontgen was published in an Austrian newspaper, *Wiener Presse*
1904 – The Marconi Co established "CQD" as first international radio distress signal
1927 – The Commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London
1962 - The last signals from the OSCAR 1 satellite were received as its non-rechargeable battery failed

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

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